

Message Text

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64

ORIGIN SS-30

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R 152355Z FEB 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

S E C R E T STATE 032093

EXDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT, TH

SUBJ: CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR THAI INTERNAL POLITICAL
CHANGE

1. ON THE BASIS OF MISSION REPORTING, WE ARE REASONABLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THAI POLITICAL STABILITY OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. NEVERTHELESS, IT WOULD BE PRUDENT TO GIVE THOUGHT TO HOW THE U.S. SHOULD REACT IN THE EVENT OF A SUDDEN COUP OR ATTEMPTED RETURN TO POWER BY THE MILITARY (OR ANY OTHER CONCEIVABLE GROUP). IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES WE MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER WHETHER THERE WERE ANY ACTIONS WE COULD TAKE TO INFLUENCE THE COURSE OF EVENTS -- FOR EXAMPLE, IF WE SHOULD HAVE ADVANCE INFORMATION THAT A COUP WAS BEING PREPARED OR IF A COUP ATTEMPT SHOULD RESULT IN AN EXTENDED POWER STRUGGLE. UNDER OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES, WE MIGHT HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO ACCEPT A FAIT ACCOMPLI, ADAPTING AND REACTING TO THE NEW SITUATION IN A MANNER CALCULATED TO SERVE U.S. SHORT- AND LONG-TERM INTERESTS. IN EITHER CASE, WE MIGHT HAVE TO REACT AND MAKE IMPORTANT DECISIONS ON VERY SHORT NOTICE.

2. WE WOULD ACCORDINGLY LIKE YOU TO DEVELOP SOME HYPOTHETICAL SCENARIOS FOR POSSIBLE THAI INTERNAL POLITICAL
SECRET

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CONTINGENCIES, TO ASSESS HOW THEY MIGHT AFFECT U. S. INTERESTS AND TO MAKE GENERAL SUGGESTIONS ON HOW THE U.S. MIGHT BEST RESPOND. RUSH

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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